

## ALTC AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

I have to begin this report with the difficult news that Simon Hutchings is critically ill. Simon has been a life-long member of ALTC and received an award from the LTA a couple of years ago for his dedication as a volunteer. We are hoping and praying that he will recover well.

It's been a tumultuous year!

Since our outdoor AGM in 2020, we have had to close the Club on three occasions, and put Covid restrictions in place for the times when it has been open. I sincerely thank all our members for their patience and understanding, and for following the LTA rules. The coming season surely can't be as difficult.

### 1. REPORTS

Reports have been posted on the website to cover finance, membership, matches, new committee and new rules but I'll touch on them very briefly here. PLEASE READ the full reports separately.

#### a) Treasurer's Report

Thanks are due to two special committee members. Firstly, Carol Hardy for her hard work over many years as Treasurer. She officially stepped down at the last AGM but only handed over responsibility in September.

I'd also like to express my thanks to Hugh Powell for taking on the role of Treasurer and for reorganising the Club's bank account. It hasn't been an easy transition administratively, but Hugh has persevered and we now hold an online account which will be far easier to manage. Please take time to check the accounts which will be fully detailed with Hugh's report.

You will be given the new bank account details for renewal payments in March.

#### b) Membership Report

Leading on from that, big thanks also to Jenny Quadrant, Membership Secretary, for working with the vagaries of 'Lockdown Membership' along with her usual work in welcoming new members and dealing with renewals. Please see the separate report 'Membership Fees Explanation' and full details of the fees in Jenny's report separately.

#### c) Matches

These were very disrupted in 2020 but the Club Tournament did go ahead. See Gordon Walker's report for full details.

We hope that we will be able to host an event early in the new season at which time we will present the winners with their trophies.

#### d) Coaching

There will not be a separate report for coaching this year. We did manage to offer a little coaching during the summer holidays from Joe Reville and his temporary assistant, Will. However, when the autumn term came, Will went back to university and Joe was

not able to cover a programme for Aldbourne as well as Marlborough. It was extremely disappointing to find that the Club was not able to offer any coaching at all, and I was very grateful to Simon Hutchings and Gordon Walker who set up a few Rusty Rackets sessions in the autumn. There seems to be a national shortage of coaches but we continue to search.

## 2. WELFARE

Lesley Ellis has kept up to date with all required courses, and continues to monitor the health and safety of the Club. Many thanks, Lesley, especially for keeping us on the right track regarding Covid restrictions.

## 3. EVENTS

We were unable to hold the Kick-Off last April but we did host the annual President vs Chairman's Tournament in September. We had a very good turnout and a lot of fun. We presented the 2019 trophies to the Tournament winners from the previous year.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

We were also unable to hold the annual Clear-up day when members help to tidy the Club, from trimming overhanging branches to washing the floor of the clubhouse. Thanks to Nigel Payne for mowing, hedge-trimming and moss-killing/power-washing through the season. A new net and new net bands were fitted. The clubhouse door needs attention. The clubhouse itself has been out of bounds for most of 2020.

## 5. ARC

Thanks here to David Ellis and Nigel Payne (and committee members) for continuing the conversation with ARC regarding the possibility of moving the Tennis Club to Palmer's Field. At the EGM held in February 2020, we agreed to call a second EGM to update members on progress, and anticipated that would happen in the autumn of 2020, but with little to report at that time, the second meeting was postponed. We hope that there will be news in the coming months and will keep members informed.

## 6. LTA

### a) Venue Registration

This new LTA policy is now established as the replacement for 'Tennis Mark'. Data is entered online each autumn and approved by the LTA. Aldbourne Lawn Tennis Club is compliant in all areas.

### b) Wimbledon Ballot

The AELTC has changed the way they manage the Wimbledon Ballot. As you will be aware, there was no Wimbledon tournament last year, and there is still some doubt about whether it will go ahead this year, and if so, what restrictions will be put in place. Regardless of that, no more tickets will be allocated to LTA registered clubs, so we will not be running our usual Club Ballot in the future. They are, however, offering tickets to LTA members individually through their new 'Advantage' programme (they may also offer any further tickets through a public ballot for non-LTA members). Please make sure you have 'Opted In' as part of your LTA membership so that, if the tournament does run, you have a chance of winning tickets.

## 7. COMMITTEE

Everyone has really worked hard in the last 12 months to steer the Club through exceptional times. So my thanks go to them all: Joanna Hobart, exemplary Secretary; Simon Hutchings and Gordon Walker, maintenance, teams and coaching, and much more; Tony Spath, website management, ideas man, ARC representative; Lesley Ellis, formidable Welfare Officer; Jenny Quadrant, diligent Membership Secretary; our new Treasurer, Hugh Powell, tenacious and patient, who has taken over from Carol Hardy whose precision has been much admired. I will be sending a gift to Carol for her 11 years in the role as a mark of our appreciation for all she has done. And finally, our President, John Adey, who attends every meeting and expounds his wisdom.

After six years in the chair and two more prior to that on the committee, I was intending to step down as Chairman of ALTC and Simon Hutchings had raised his hand as willing to take on the role for the third time. With Simon's ill-health, this is not currently an option so I will remain in the chair for a few months.

I would also like to thank James Harrison and Juliet Stedman for agreeing to stand for election. On the agenda you can see details of the proposed new committee and you will be invited to vote on this proposal in the live meeting.

With best wishes to all our members and here's to the reopening of Clubs very soon.

Milly Goddard  
Chairman